

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes Summary
November 29, 2000

Present

Chuck Mosher, Chair
Bill Hinkle
Susan Harper
Sarah Spence
Harry “Jay” Follman
Lee A. James
Grant Jensen
Duane Henderson
Richard Gilda

Absent

Laura L. Parsons
Don Evans
Alan J. Cabodi
Brad Rosewood

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Purpose of the Meeting
2. Definition of Committee Role
3. Main Committee Activities
4. Sub Committee Issues/Activities
5. Field Trip

1. Welcome – Chair Chuck Mosher opened the meeting and welcomed the Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety to the second meeting. He handed out the minutes from the last meeting on October 18, 2000. Mayor Mosher stated that any corrections to the minutes should be submitted to Lindsay Walker with the WUTC (e-mail: lwalker@wutc.wa.gov). The minutes to the October 18 meeting will also be e-mailed to the other members who could not attend. A Public comment period was then opened up to anyone in the audience. No comments were received.

2. Definition of Committee Role - The purpose of the meeting was to begin to narrow down the focus of the Committee and further explore the roles of sub-committees. Some Committee members also wanted to review the Committee’s authorizing language from House Bill 2420 which would help them define the committees’ purpose:

The following section from HB 2420 was read:

Sec. 1. (1) The citizens committee on pipeline safety is established to advise the state agencies and other appropriate federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation, and maintenance. The committee shall have thirteen total members who shall be appointed by the governor to staggered three-year terms and shall consist of: (a) Nine members representing local government, including elected officials and the public; and (b) four nonvoting members, representing owners and operators of hazardous liquid and gas pipelines. The committee shall review and comment on proposed rules and the operation of the state pipeline safety programs.

(2) The committee may create one or more technical advisory committees comprised of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline owners or operators, agency representatives, natural resource and environmental interests, or other interested parties.

(3) The committee established in subsection (1) of this section constitutes a class one group under RCW 43.03.220. Expenses for this group, as well as staff support, shall be provided by the utilities and transportation commission and, if additional pipeline authority is transferred to it, the department of ecology.

Committee members expressed interest in finding out what various state and federal agencies are doing in regards to pipeline safety to make sure they were not duplicating their efforts and to work with those that are already in these processes. The WUTC said they would provide that information via e-mail or the WUTC pipeline web page. Another suggestion by a committee member was to attend any rulemakings these state agencies are conducting and report back to the committee and discuss as a group. Two kinds of communications were suggested that would be helpful to the committee and interested persons 1) an internal newsletter to keep committee members informed and 2) external information (website, or PR piece). A discussion database was also suggested as a way to keep members updated on current events. Most members felt that there is a lack of public knowledge regarding the committee and would like to do more work with public relations and notifying the public of meetings and other activities.

Carole Washburn offered two pieces of advice as to where the Committee should consider focusing its efforts. Her suggestion for the long term would be the participation in rulemakings (Federal or State) affecting pipeline companies. For the short term, Carole suggested the Committee consider expressing its views regarding WUTC sponsored legislation that will allow the agency to collect a fee from pipeline companies to fund the ongoing interstate and intrastate gas and hazardous liquids safety program. An additional issue raised in the legislative language is support resources for the Committee.

3. Main Committee Activities – The issue of having alternates attend meetings in a committee member's absence was raised and discussed. Some members felt that having a designated alternate would allow for continuity in the event that a member is unable to attend meetings. Others expressed the view that the legislation creating the Committee designated the number of members and appointing alternates would effectively increase that number. Following discussion, the Committee voted 4 to 3 against the idea of assigning alternates. It was decided that if a member cannot make a meeting and would like to have someone attend in their stead, this representative could sit with other members of the public and would be allowed to make any comments during the public comment portion of the meeting. Next, the issue of developing a regular schedule of committee meetings was discussed. Consensus was to set the

meetings for the 2nd Wednesday of every month, subject to consent by the full Committee. The next committee meeting was set for January 10, 2001 and will be held in Olympia because the legislative session will be commencing on the 8th of January. Committee members expressed the desire to be sure the meeting facility has a conference bridge so that members who can't attend could still call into the meeting.

4. Sub-Committee Issues/Activities – The formation of sub-committees was discussed next. A Legislation sub-committee was established with Bill Hinkle as the lead. Those who volunteered for the legislation sub-committee were: Richard Gilda, Susan Harper, Sarah Spence, Grant Jensen, Duane Henderson and Lee James. Bill Hinkle stated that he would schedule a sub-committee meeting before the legislative session started and would be in contact with the other sub-committee members by e-mail. Susan Harper volunteered to chair an education/PR sub-committee and stated that she would get an e-mail out to the other members to express her vision of this sub-committee and solicit volunteers.

The Committee broke for lunch and was briefed by Dan Cummings of BP/Amoco (Olympic Pipeline) about the field trip sites they were about to see. Dan explained that the group would be visiting Olympic's site numbers 630 and 640 in the New Castle area. Dan explained that at these sites the Committee would be seeing sections of the 16-inch pipeline that were un-earthed in order to replace areas where anomalies were detected. He also played videotape showing injection of nitrogen gas into the pipeline as well as the insertion of an internal inspection device (smart pig). The Committee finished the day by touring the Olympic Pipeline sites and adjourning the meeting.